

# Not in a galaxy far, far away: The effect of proximity to planned CO<sub>2</sub> capture, transport and storage projects on risk perception

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## Introduction

Although the technology for CO<sub>2</sub> capture, transport and storage (CCS) has been in development for decades, actual implementation of the technology is scarce. Studies that have aimed to understand public attitudes towards CCS have used an array of methods, which have all supplied information on CCS to respondents (Desbarats et al, 2010). Attitudes towards CCS identified as a result of these studies indicate a range in support from moderate to skeptical, although generally speaking strong opposition to the development of CCS is hardly encountered. However, lacking actual project plans near residents, these studies have for the large part centered on national general public. Opinions on CCS could be expected to change with the development of recent projects in the EU, when people are likely to be confronted with CCS, either in their country or in their neighborhood. The current study investigates reactions of both the general public and local public to five CCS demonstration projects in Europe. The main research question we will address in the presentation is how proximity to a planned CCS demonstration project affects risk perception of the project. Do people near capture points, transport or storage sites, perceive the project differently? Do they differ in risk perception, or differ in how their risk perception influences their attitude towards CCS in general or the project in particular? During the presentation, we will elaborate on how the results of surveys in five countries, (the Netherlands, UK, Spain, Germany and Poland) can answer these questions.

## Method

Based on literature research and case studies of local reactions to CCS demonstration project plans (Desbarats et al, 2010), a survey was designed. The survey was administered in February in the aforementioned countries, with over 400 public respondents recruited in each country, of which over 200 respondents per country were identified as “regional”, i.e., living within a range of 100-200 km of planned CO<sub>2</sub> capture, transport and/or storage facilities. After questions regarding national issues, climate, and energy technology, respondents received a google maps image of their region with their home and the capture and storage sites marked. Respondents were asked for their perception of CCS, risk, benefits and the project both before and after they were presented with information about CCS and the specific project in their country.

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## References

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